REMARKS

Receipt is acknowledged of the Office Action of October 27, 2004. Claims 1-9 have been rejected in the Office Action. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended in this Response. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner with respect to the rejected Claims and request reconsideration of the rejection, as explained in more detail below.

Claim 7 was objected to by the Examiner because of the informality of brackets in line 2. This informality has been corrected in the Amended Claim 7.

The information disclosure statement filed 5/10/04 was objected to by the Examiner because no copy of Japan Patent 3306870B2 was included. A copy of this patent is attached to this response.

Claim 1 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,287,030 ("Nutter") in light of U.S. Patent No. 5,057,729 ("Tominaga"). Applicants amended independent Claim 1 to more particularly claim the invention disclosed in the present Application.

As claimed in the amended independent Claim 1, the present invention discloses a motor with cylindrical inner casing (50) and outer casing (40) partitioned in the axial direction of a rotor (10), a shaft (15) integrated with the rotor having bearings (60 and 61) at the casings (40 and 50) allowing the shaft to spin freely, a ring-shaped stator (20) facing the rotor, which is wrapped with coils, where the inner casing is fitted into and secured within said outer casing and the stator is interposed between these casings, and where the outer casing secured to the inner casing using caulking, adhesive, or welding, and either the outer or inner casing is provided with a spring part (46) that presses against the stator.

Nutter discloses a motor having two casings (13 and 14) partitioned in the axial direction of the rotor, a shaft integrated with the rotor, bearings (32) in each of the casings allowing the shaft to spin freely, a ring-shaped stator (11) facing the rotor and wound with coils, where the stator is interposed between the casings, and the casings are held together using a plurality of spring clips (51).

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner that Nutter discloses the two casings, where the inner casing (13) is fitted into and secured within the outer casing (14), with said stator interposed between said casings; wherein at said outer casing and/or inner casing is provided with a spring part (51) in order to increase the holding power of said stator by said casings. As opposed to the present invention, in which the inner casing is fastened and sealed to the outer casing using caulking, adhesive, or welding, Nutter shows that the inner casing is held to the outer casing using only the spring clips (51). The claims of Nutter do not even indicate that the inner and outer casings must fit together. Thus, these external spring clips do not "increase the holding power of said stator by said casings;" rather, the spring clips are the *only* means securing the inner casing to the outer casing, with the stator interposed between them.

These spring clips (51) in Nutter are further distinguishable from the spring part (46) in the Application. The spring parts (46) of the Application are located on the interior surface of either the inner casing or outer casing, in such a manner that they press directly on the stator, giving additional stability to the stator structure within the casing. As stated in the Application, "[t]he elastic force of the elastic parts 46 compensates for changes in dimensions in the gap between the front casing 40 and the rear casing 50 occurring due to vibrations, shock, or thermal expansion, applying a strong force on the stator 20 at all times . . . ." In comparison, the spring clips (51) of Nutter are connected to both casings, and said spring clips stabilize the stator

only indirectly, by drawing together the inner and outer casings, between which the stator is interposed. Thus, even if the two casings in the Nutter reference were bonded together using caulking, adhesive, or welding, the external spring clips (51) of Nutter would not serve the same purpose of the elastic parts (46) of the application, as they would not stabilize the stator inside the casings.

In total, this inventive combination of a stator stack (21) interposed between an inner casing (50) and outer casing (40), where the inner casing and outer casing are fastened by caulking, adhesive, or soldering, with an elastic part attached to one or both of the casings and pressing against the stator stack (20), are not taught by the combination of the Nutter and Tominaga references. The Applicants request that the Rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn in light of the amendment.

Dependent Claims 2-9 are rejected over the same Nutter reference in view of Tominaga (and in light of other references). Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2-9 are believed to define patentable subject matter in view of their dependency upon allowable Claim 1 and, further, on their own merits.

The Examiner is urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned counsel at the number noted below if it will advance the prosecution of this application, or with any suggestion to resolve any condition that would impede allowance. In the event that any extension of time is required, Applicant petitions for that extension of time required to make this response timely. Kindly charge any additional fee, or credit any surplus, to Deposit Account No. 50-0675, Order No. 051319-0073.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 25, 2005

Anna Vishev

Anna Vishev
Reg. No. 45,018

Schulte Roth & Zabel, LLP
919 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Tel: (212) 756-2000